

I live in Martinez, California. Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime only to Republican candidates in California (including KTNC in nearby Concord) is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one party in local elections an exclusive voice. There are SIX (6) parties listed on my sample ballot, not counting write ins (such as Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo). During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.